

phenylhydroxylamine or its salt is from 1:1 to 10:1.

11. (Amended) A stabilized monomer composition, comprising:

at least one maleic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of maleic anhydride, methylmaleic anhydride, maleimide, methylmaleimide and mixtures thereof;

N,N-diethylhydroxylamine; and

N-nitroso-N-phenylhydroxylamine or its salt;

wherein a weight ratio of N,N-diethylhydroxylamine to N-nitroso-N-

phenylhydroxylamine or its salt is from 1:1 to 10:1.

26. (Amended) A process for synthesis of a stabilized monomer composition,

comprising:

mixing at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, N,N-diethylhydroxylamine

and N-nitroso-N-phenylhydroxylamine or its salt; and

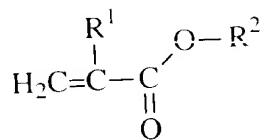
adding an inhibitor and/or antioxidant;

wherein a weight ratio of N,N-diethylhydroxylamine to N-nitroso-N-

phenylhydroxylamine or its salt is from 1:1 to 10:1.

32. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said derivative of

(meth)acrylic acid is represented by Formula (1):



wherein

R¹ is hydrogen or a methyl group;

R² is a hydrogen, an aryl group, an aryl group containing hetero atoms, a saturated or unsaturated straight-chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group with up to 30 carbon atoms, or a

saturated or unsaturated straight-chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group with up to 30 carbon atoms and containing hetero atoms.

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cont.
33. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said (meth)acrylic acid ester is a methyl (meth)acrylate, an ethyl (meth)acrylate, a propyl (meth)acrylate, an isopropyl (meth)acrylate, a n-butyl (meth)acrylate, an isobornyl (meth)acrylate, a hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, an aminoalkyl (meth)acrylate or mixtures thereof.

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34. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate is selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, 3,4-dihydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate and mixtures thereof.

35. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said (meth)acrylic acid amide is N,N-dimethylaminopropyl methacrylamide (DMAPMA), N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylamide (DMAEMA) or a mixture thereof.

36. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said styrene substituted within an alkyl group in the side chain is α -methylstyrene, α -ethylstyrene or mixtures thereof.

37. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said styrene substituted with an alkyl group at the ring is vinyltoluene, p-methylstyrene or mixtures thereof.

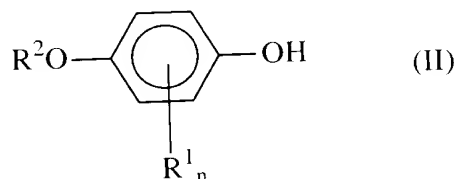
38. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said halogenated styrene is selected from the group consisting of monochlorostyrene, dichlorostyrene, tribromostyrene, tetrabromostyrene and mixtures thereof.

39. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein said maleic acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of maleic anhydride, methylmaleic anhydride, maleimide, methylmaleimide and mixtures thereof.

40. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said salt of N-nitroso-N-

phenylhydroxylamine is an ammonium salt, an aluminum salt, a copper salt, a lithium salt, a sodium salt, a potassium salt, or a rubidium salt.

41. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is a dihydroxybenzene of Formula (II):

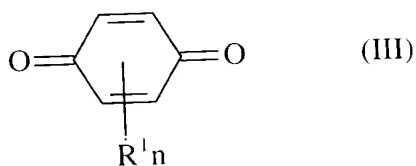


wherein R^1 is a straight-chain or branched alkyl group with one to eight carbon atoms, halogen or aryl;

n is an integer ranging from one to four; and

R^2 is hydrogen, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group with one to eight carbon atoms or aryl.

42. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is a 1,4 benzoquinone of Formula (III):



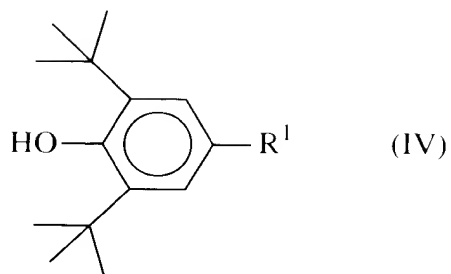
where

R^1 is a straight-chain or branched alkyl group with one to eight carbon atoms, halogen or aryl; and

n is an integer ranging from one to four.

43. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is a phenol

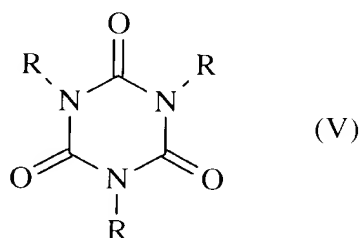
of Formula (IV):



wherein

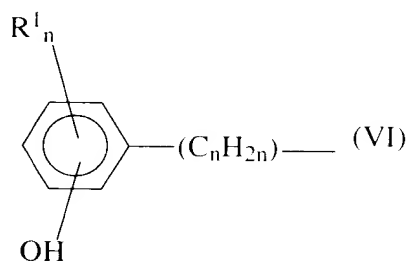
R¹ is a straight-chain or branched alkyl group with one to eight carbon atoms, aryl, aralkyl, a propionic acid ester group with a monohydric to tetrahydric alcohol optionally containing hetero atoms.

44. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is a triazine derivative of Formula (V):



wherein

R = compound of Formula (VI)

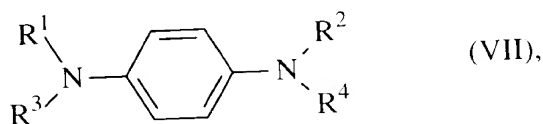


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wherein

$R^1 = C_nH_{2n+1}$; and

$n = 1$ or 2 .

45. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is a phenylenediamine of Formula (VII):



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen or alkyl, aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl groups,

each with up to 40 carbon atoms.

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47. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is a phenazine dye selected from the group consisting of induline and nigrosine.

48. (Amended) The process according to Claim 26, wherein said inhibitor has a concentration of 0.01 to 0.5% by weight based on the total weight of said composition.

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51. (Amended) A process for synthesis of a 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate,

comprising:

reacting an oxirane compound with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of a catalyst;

adding at least one inhibitor;

adding the stabilized monomer composition according to Claim 1, thereby providing a

mixture; and

distilling said mixture.

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58. (Amended) A method of purifying a 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, comprising:

62. adding at least one inhibitor to said 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate;
adding the stabilized monomer composition according to Claim 1, thereby providing a mixture; and
distilling said mixture.

Please add the following new Claims.

62. (New) The composition according to Claim 11, wherein a concentration of N,N-diethylhydroxylamine is 10 to 500 ppm based on the total weight of said stabilized monomer composition; and

wherein a concentration of N-nitroso-N-phenylhydroxylamine or its salt is 10-500 ppm based on the total weight of said stabilized monomer composition.

63. (New) A stabilized monomer composition, comprising:

at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer;

N,N-diethylhydroxylamine;

N-nitroso-N-phenylhydroxylamine or its salt; and

a solvent selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, n-hexane, cyclohexane, methyl isobutyl ketone, methyl ethyl ketone and mixtures thereof;

wherein a weight ratio of N,N-diethylhydroxylamine to N-nitroso-N-phenylhydroxylamine or its salt is from 1:1 to 10:1.

64. (New) A process for synthesis of a 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, comprising:

reacting an oxirane compound with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of a catalyst;

adding at least one inhibitor;

adding the stabilized monomer composition according to Claim 11, thereby providing a mixture; and

distilling said mixture.

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65. (New) A method of purifying a 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, comprising:
adding at least one inhibitor to said 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate;
adding the stabilized monomer composition according to Claim 11, thereby providing
a mixture; and

distilling said mixture.

66. (New) A process for synthesis of a 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, comprising:
reacting an oxirane compound with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of a catalyst;
adding at least one inhibitor;
adding the stabilized monomer composition according to Claim 63, thereby providing
a mixture; and

distilling said mixture.

67. (New) A method of purifying a 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, comprising:
adding at least one inhibitor to said 2-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate;
adding the stabilized monomer composition according to Claim 63, thereby providing
a mixture; and

distilling said mixture.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 3-10, 27 and 52 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 7.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 1.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 27. The dependency
of Claims 32-39 and 41-48 has been amended. Claim 40 has been amended to correct a
minor typographical error.

Claims 51 and 58 have been amended to depend on Claim 1.

New Claims 62-67 have been added.

New Claim 62 is supported by Claim 2 as originally filed.

New Claim 63 is supported by Claims 1 and 23 as originally filed.

New Claims 64 and 66 are supported by Claim 51. New Claims 65 and 67 are supported by Claim 58. New Claims 64-66 are further supported at page 10, line 1 and 2 of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-2, 11-26, 28-51 and 53-67 will now be active in this application. Claims 51 and 53-62 stand withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Toomer for indicating allowability of Claims 7, 11, 14-21, 23, 35, 39 and 41-48 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Applicants have included the limitations of Claim 7 in allowable Claim 1, the limitations of Claim 1 in allowable Claim 11 and the limitations of Claim 27 in allowable Claim 26.

Claims 2 and 12-25 depend on Claim 1 which has been otherwise indicated as allowable. Claims 28-50 depend on Claim 26 which has been otherwise indicated as

allowable.

New Claim 62 depends on Claim 11 which has been otherwise indicated as allowable.

New Claim 63 includes the limitations of Claim 1 and allowable Claim 23.

Claims 51 and 58 have been amended to depend on allowable Claim 1.

New Claims 64 and 65 depend on allowable Claim 11.

New Claims 66 and 67 depend on allowable Claim 63.

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-50; and

Group II: Claims 51-61.

Applicants confirm their election, with traverse, of Group I, Claims 1-50.

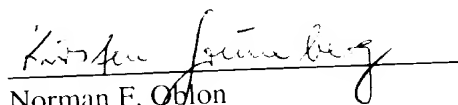
Applicants wish to point out that they have amended Claims 51 and 58 to depend on allowable Claim 1. New Claims 64 and 65 depend on allowable Claim 11. New Claims 66 and 67 depend on allowable Claim 63.

Thus, no further search is required and Claims 51 and 53-67 should be allowable (In re Ochai, 71 F.3d 1565 (Fed. Cir. 1995)). Furthermore, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected claims should be rejoined.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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